

Public education

To the editor: The position of the League of Women Voters North Carolina and the League of Women Voters Henderson County on public education includes "holding all schools and entities that receive public funds to the same educational and transparency standards as traditional public schools."

As the General Assembly convenes its 2019 session, there is an effort to enact more meaningful and consistent accountability systems for publicly supported schools across North Carolina. Such action would both serve the students of North Carolina and protect the investment of public monies.

Currently, accountability measures are unevenly applied. Voucher-supported programs are virtually free from all educational accountability requirements even though \$55 million of public monies are allocated this year alone to the North Carolina voucher program — an amount slated to increase significantly.

Leaders charged with protecting and promoting the public interest — now and into the future — owe it to our children and our communities to ensure that whether children attend traditional public, charter or private schools receiving voucher funds, they are assured of an education that is grounded in high-quality standards.

Attaining these standards should be measured and documented publicly to show steady growth and allow for acceptance to a variety of universities, colleges, technical programs and promising careers.

Nan Jennings and Rachel Poller, co-presidents, League of Women Voters Henderson County

